

Ancient Chinese Thought

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2026

Course Code	GEIS10024					
Course Title	Ancient Chinese Thought					
Credit	2	Experiment (including Computer) Credit		Pract ice Credi t		Aesthetic Education Credit
Credit Hours Per Week	9 credit hours per week, 36+3 tutorial hours (one credit hour is 45 minutes)	Education on The Hard- Working Spirit Credit Hours		Langu age of Instru ction		Honors Course <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Course Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Core General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course in General Discipline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others			2+X Major :		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Core Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Advanced Course		
			Non 2+X Major :			
			<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Course			
Course Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Familiarize students with the history of Chinese thought. 2. Help students gain a systematic knowledge of the philosophy of Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism. 3. Enhance students' academic research and writing ability. 4. Enhance students' presentation skills. 					
Course Description	<p>This course will provide a high-level introduction to mainstream ancient Chinese thought by focusing on the doctrines of three pivotal philosophical schools, namely, Confucianism, Daoism and Chan Buddhism. Apart from discussions on their theories of metaphysics, moral cultivation, and human nature, their viewpoints will also be constantly examined from a comparative perspective in order to further demonstrate the uniqueness of their philosophical reasoning.</p>					
Course Requirements:						
This course has no prerequisite, but some basic knowledge of both modern and classical Chinese would be preferred.						
Teaching Methods:						
Lecture instruction plus discussion.						

Course Director's Academic Background:

Dr. Teng He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from The University of Bonn and is currently an Associate Professor of the School of Philosophy at Fudan University. He works principally on patristic Philosophy and comparative philosophy, with special focus on Augustine and Chan Buddhism.

Instructor's Academic Background:

See above

Members of Teaching Team

Name	Gender	Professional Title	Department	Responsibility

Course Schedule :**Lecture 1**

An Introduction to the History of Chinese Philosophy and the Methodology of Comparative Philosophy

Lecture 2

Confucianism: How Can One Be Happy? – Virtue as Intrinsic Value

Lecture 3

Confucianism: Morality and Human Nature

Lecture 4

Confucianism: Is There a Notion of Free Will in Confucius?

Lecture 5

Neo-Confucianism: The Debate on Mind and Principle: Zhu Xi and Wang Yangming

Lecture 6

Daoism: What Is the *Dao*? – A Mystical Interpretation

Lecture 7

Daoism: Conformity with Nature?

Lecture 8

Chan Buddhism: Chan Buddhism and Its Reception in the Western World

Lecture 9

Chan Buddhism: What Is Ultimate Reality? – The Absolute Nothingness

Lecture 10

Chan Buddhism: How Should One Live? – Chan Buddhist Teachings on Life

Lecture 11

Chan Buddhism: Chan Culture and daily life

Lecture 12

Final Presentations and Concluding Discussion

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

The course instructor will provide questions for reflection at the end of each lecture, and students will also be encouraged to raise and discuss questions with fellow classmates.

If you need a TA, please indicate the assignment of assistant:**Grading & Evaluation:**

Attendance: 10% (a direct "F" for missing three or more classes)

Mid-Term Quiz (10 multiple-choice questions): 20%

Group Presentation (15-20 minutes): 20%

Final Essay (no less than 2000 words in English): 50%

Usage of Textbook: Yes (complete textbook information form below) No

Textbook Information (No more than two textbooks) :

Title	Author	ISBN	Publishing Time	Publisher	Type I	Type II
					<input type="checkbox"/> Self-compiled Textbook (Published) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mainland Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Other Textbook (Published)	<input type="checkbox"/> National Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial and Ministerial Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> School Level Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Others
					<input type="checkbox"/> Self-compiled Textbook (Published) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mainland Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Other Textbook (Published)	<input type="checkbox"/> National Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial and Ministerial Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> School Level Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Others

Teaching References:

Chan, Wing-tsit. 1963. *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Fung, Yu-lan. 1997. *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*. Edited by Derk Bodde. New York: Free Press.

Hansen, Chad. 1992. *A Daoist Theory of Chinese Thought: A Philosophical Interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Huang, Yong. 2013. *Confucius: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Bloomsbury.

Ivanhoe, Philip J. 2002. *Ethics in the Confucian Tradition: The Thought of Mengzi and Wang Yangming*, 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Møllgaard, Eske. 2007. *An Introduction to Daoist Thought: Action, Language, and Ethics in Zhuangzi*. London: Routledge.

Yuanwu. 1977. *The Blue Cliff Record*. Translated by Thomas Cleary and J. C. Cleary. 3 vols. Boulder: Shambhala.

More readings will be provided after the course starts.